

DATA GEMS: How to Access an American Community Survey Data Profile using data.census.gov

Transcript

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Hi, I am Alexandra. On this data gem, I will show you how to access my favorite data tables from the American Community Survey, the data profiles. The reason why I love these data tables it's because, in just a few clicks, you can access demographic, social-economic, and housing data for all areas in the country. So, let me show you how to get to the data profiles.

There are two types of data profiles from the American Community Survey that you can access at data.census.gov. These profiles the data profiles DP's and a comparative profile CP's each contain 4 separate profiles: Social Characteristics, Economic Characteristics, Housing Characteristics, and Demographic Characteristics.

With the data profiles, you can access them for any geography down to the tract level. While for Comparative Profiles, you can access data down to the place level. So, for some towns, this will not be available. What is neat about the Comparative Profile, is we give you estimates for different years of the American Community Survey. To help you draw comparisons and to make it even easier for you, we calculate the statistical significance between two different estimates. Here, if you see the asterisk, it means they are statistically different.

So now let me show you how to get these tables from data.census.gov. At data.census.gov, if you're looking for a profile for a single geography; you can start by going to the search bar typing data profile. You can also just type DP or CP if you're looking just for one type of profile or the other; followed by the name of your area and click search. As a result, you get a few profiles right away in this case; the CP's are available for the Bronx. So, they populate right away, or you can see the view all tables option to access all the other profiles. Here you can see all the CP's and all the 4 DP's for you to choose 3, 4, and 5. For instance, let's check DP03 selected Economic Characteristics for the Bronx. All profiles provide a lot of information for your area.

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In the selected Economic Characteristics, you'll learn information about: employment status, you get data about employment rate, the labor force, how people commute to work, industry occupation, as well as income data, median income, per capita income, and poverty data. If you like to see the same profiles for multiple areas, all you have to do is click on "filter" and then select your geography, right from the advanced search option. Click on geography, in this case, I will just add a few more counties from New York to my search. So, I click on county, my counties will be part of the state of New York. So, let me indicate that right here, and now I get a full list of counties in New York. And I'll add just a few more, to go along with Bronx. Let me find Kings County, New York County, Nassau County. As you can tell, they are now part of my selected filters. Just hide at the tab, and the same profile now is available for the new areas you selected. And from the right-side table view, you can change from profile to profile.

I hope you find the data profiles very useful for your data work. For more videos like this, visit census.gov/academy and subscribe. Thank you.